

# **PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners was held on Monday, November 26, 2007, in the District office, 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

**Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek, Commissioners Brian Choiniere, William Mageau, Thomas Partridge, Adrien Trudeau, and Dennis Whitman**

**Also in Attendance: Theodore Garille, General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel**

**Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.**

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2. Public Comment**

**Mr. Bruce Rylah expressed concern regarding the requirements for voting at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Mr. Rylah asked if his wife could vote, if her name was not on the electric bill. Mr. Bernstein made reference to the most recent change to the charter which was that Mr. Rylah's wife would have to be added to the bill in order for**

her to vote. Mr. Garille read the definition of a qualified voter: “a qualified voter means any person whose name appears on an active account with the Pascoag Utility District and who resides in the village of Pascoag or owns property in the village of Pascoag”

Mr. Rylah also wanted to know what the results of the George Eddy Drive meeting were. Mr. Palmisciano stated it was a Well meeting and George Eddy Drive was discussed but the meeting wasn't only about George Eddy Drive. Dankris is the overseeing contractor and offered \$1300 as a good will gesture to both Mr. Rylah and RI Housing and Mortgage with the stipulation that there would be hold harmless release forms that would have to be signed in conjunction with that payment.

### **3. Good and Welfare of the District**

#### **A. PUC Data Request- Docket No. 1725**

Ms. Allaire stated that October 31st ended the moratorium. PUD had only shut off 47 standard customers and 0 protected customers. There were over 1,000 late notices that went out. Mr. Garille stated that Mr. Shelton has been trying to bring attention to how many shut off's there are throughout the state. Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Choiniere, seconded by Mr. Trudeau, all in favor, vote is unanimous.

## **B. Truck Financing**

**Mr. Garille stated we have a bucket truck scheduled to be replaced in the fiscal year 2008. We have negotiated on a demo truck fully loaded for a negotiated purchase price of \$112,000. This truck would typically go for \$160,000. The delivery of this truck will be for the 2nd week of December. PUD has the PUC restricted fund for capital so this purchase will be paid for by cash. PUD has consulted with MMWEC because we are seeking a credit rating for the Pascoag Utility District. Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Mageau, all in favor, vote is unanimous.**

## **C. Correspondence**

**1. Mr. Garille made reference to a recent trip to Washington DC. The purpose this time was to try and bring attention to the ever rising cost of the Independent System Operator here in New England. Their original budget has gone from 10 million dollars to 124 million dollars. There is no reliability versus reasonable cost. Mr. Garille stated that Senator Sanders and Senator Snowe are planning on introducing legislation called The Consumer Protection and Accountability Act. A letter of thanks was sent to Senator Sanders and Senator Snowe. The ISO will have to prove a risk analysis was done. Mr. Palmisciano asked if this legislation has a chance of being passed. Mr. Garille said he feels it will gain momentum as it will affect all ISO's across the country, not just New England. A handout**

was supplied to the board showing deregulation across the country compared to those companies that have not.

2. Mr. Garille referred to a thank you letter from Exchange City for a \$3,000 donation made by the Pascoag Utility District. This will go directly toward 100 Burrillville Middle school students participation in this program. Mr. Garille will let the board know when this will take place. Motion to receive and file correspondence was made by Mr. Choiniere, seconded by Mr. Whitman, all in favor, vote was unanimous.

#### **D. REGGIE (reduction of green house gases initiative)**

Mr. Garille stated that the term “capacity” will now be replaced with the term “REGGIE”. A number of pieces of legislation are pending right now on the reduction of these gases. Whatever is done to reduce these gases will be very expensive. This cost will be passed on to the rate payer. Ms. Polacek asked Mr. Garille if we are involved in the wind mill project. Mr. Garille stated we are but very preliminary.

Mr. Whitman asked if we would be able to supply our own power and Mr. Garille stated that had been looked into, but it was not feasible. Ms. Polacek asked about tidal generators, but Mr. Garille said they had been looked into but nothing at this time.

#### **E. Food Drive**

Ms. Allaire stated that PUD usually prepares 5 or 6 baskets and works

with local charities for families in need. Ms. Allaire also stated that in the past some of the board members have supplied turkeys for the basket. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Choiniere and seconded by Mr. Trudeau, all in favor, vote was unanimous.

#### **F. Update on 2008 Rates**

Ms. Allaire stated that our YE Report has been filed with the PUC in November. There is a possibility of under collection in 2008. We are recommending to the PUC to hold our rates for the 1st 6 months of 2008. National Grid's transmission tariff is changing. Division is leaning towards increasing our rates by 2.2% which is approximately \$1.59/mo. increase to the customer's bill, but we are going in with a recommendation to hold the rates. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Trudeau, seconded by Mr. Mageau, all in favor, vote is unanimous.

#### **G. BUC Annual Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Allaire stated we are preparing for the Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10th. The Canvassing Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6th. We will need a board member present and Mr. Whitman has volunteered. The warrant will be placed in the bargain buyer once more before the meeting. Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Mageau, seconded by Mr. Whitman, all in favor, vote is unanimous.

## **H. PUD Business Report**

**Mr. Garille stated the business report gives a background of the PUD for Industrial and Commercial customers. We are also updating the web site and the business report will be posted there as well. Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Choiniere, all in favor, vote was unanimous.**

## **I. GNEF Update**

**Mr. Garille stated that he is the State Chairman for GNEF this year. He thanked the Board for allowing him the time to participate in this. The grant amount is set at \$500/family. The Governor will have the “Celebrate RI Ball” again this year.**

**Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Trudeau, seconded by Mr. Whitman, all in favor, vote was unanimous.**

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

### **• Regular Meeting – October 22, 2007**

**Motion to receive and file minutes as submitted by Mr. Whitman seconded by Mr. Mageau, all in favor, vote was unanimous.**

## **5. Committee Comments**

**Mr. Palmisciano stated that the water Subcommittee met prior to this meeting to discuss leak protection. PUD had a major leak a couple of**

weeks ago. He wanted to know if there was any other leak detection device we could utilize to find the leaks much quicker. Unfortunately there is not much more that can be done at this time.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Update Well #5**

Mr. Guertin stated that there is a lot of progress happening at Well #5.

PUD is running tests daily and sending results to the DEM. PUD is also waiting on DOH approval. The Well has been fired up and there were no problems. As soon as approvals are received we can proceed further. The Well will be monitored around the clock once the well is up and running. The first week is every 4 hours and then once a day for a year.

### **B. Update on STAG Grant**

Ms. Allaire stated that a 3rd request for STAG funds has been submitted. If approved the request would be for \$9,207 (55% of the 16,740.04 requested). There was a change order submitted by Dankris for a filter so the pump won't heat up. As of progress report #5 the funds requested to complete, less all approved STAG grants are \$23,554. Ms. Allaire stated that PUD will have 3 years from the application date to use the money.

Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Mageau and seconded by Mr. Trudeau, all in favor, vote was unanimous.

## **C. Special Project 2006A**

**Mr. Garille stated things continue to go well with this project. There has been minimal intervention or objection to the plan. The final decision to commit to this plan is spring of 2008. Mr. Palmisciano asked Mr. Bernstein if we would have to hold a public meeting to get voter approval and Mr. Bernstein stated no. Mr. Palmisciano feels there should be a public meeting if this should come to pass.**

## **7. New Business**

### **A. 2007 Write-Off's**

**Mr. Garille stated he finds little solace in the fact that this is a low number. The total of \$13,734.47 is less than 2/10ths of 1% of the total budget. This is for electric only. If these people are located they are charged interest on the balance owed.**

**Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Trudeau and seconded by Mr. Mageau, 6 in favor 1 opposed (Mr. Partridge). Aye's have it. Mr. Partridge said he is upset that some of these totals are \$10 - \$15.00.**

## **8. Financial Reports**

### **A. Water Department / September**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the water department budget and asked if there were any questions. There were none.**

**Motion to receive and approve made by Mr. Whitman and seconded by Mr. Trudeau, all in favor, vote was unanimous.**



## **B. Electric Department / September**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the electric department budget and asked if there were any questions. There were none.**

**Motion was made to receive and approve budgets by Mr. Trudeau seconded by Mr. Mageau, all in favor, vote is unanimous.**

## **9. Executive Session**

**Mr. Whitman made a motion to move to executive session at 7:40 pm, 2nd by Mr. Mageau. Out of executive session at 7:59 PM**

## **8. Adjournment**

**Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Choiniere and seconded by Mr. Partridge, all in favor, vote is unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.**

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**Brian Choiniere, Secretary**  
**Board of Utility Commissioners**

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**Kris Fanning, Recording Secretary**